

## Cohasset Churches



### Community

South Shore Christian Community (NonDenominational), 7 Depot Court, 383-6683. Communion services 6:15 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. Sat. and Sun. Counseling available by appointment. Public classes Thursday eve at 8 p.m.

### Congregational

Second Congregational Church in Cohasset (United Church of Christ), 43 Highland Ave. 383-0345. The Rev. John Benbow. Sunday services at 10 a.m. Church school at 10 a.m. Nursery and child care provided.

### First Parish

First Parish Church in Cohasset (Unitarian-Universalist), 23 North Main St. 383-1100. The Rev. Edward Atkinson. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting house on the Common. Church School at 10:15 a.m. in the parish house across the street.

### St. Anthony's

St. Anthony's Church, Summer and South Main Streets. 383-0219. The Rev. John J. Keohane, pastor. The Rev. Charles R. McKenny, SJ, associate. Saturday mass at 5 p.m. Sunday masses at 7, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Daily mass at 7 a.m., Saturday at 8 a.m. Sacrament of penance Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m.

### St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Parish (Episcopal) South Main Street 383-1083. The Rev. Richard Muir. Sunday services at 8 and 10 a.m. Nursery care provided for 10 a.m. service.

### United

Beechwood Congregational United Church of Christ, Church Street, 383-0808. Rev. Robert Campbell. Sunday Services 9:45 a.m. Nursery care provided, Church school 9:30 a.m.

# Cemetery Art

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that Cohasset is a coastal community and its history intertwined with seafaring and its consequences. Off Jerusalem Road surrounded by woods and swampy brush is a raised cemetery where two seafarers were lost at sea; David Lincoln in Nov. 1879 and Capt. Cornelius Lincoln in Nov. 1883.

The Beechwood Cemetery offers examples of the winged skull and soul carvings but many of the stones are badly deteriorated or overgrown with lichen.

Life expectancy is now around 72 years for men and 80 years for women but such was not the case 200 years ago. Three stones for Whitcom children in the Beechwood Cemetery attest to this fact. Elizabeth Whitcom, aged three years, and Hannah Whitcom, aged eight years, children of Isreal and Hannah Whitcom, both died in March 1737. Three years earlier their

brother, Job, aged six years, died on March 27, 1734.

Nearby are three small stones for the children of Stephen and Mary Stodder who died in Jan. 1748. David, aged eight years, and Sarah, aged ten years, both died on Jan. 24 and their sister, Ann, aged four years died on Jan. 21.

Because the children all died within a few days of each other it is safe to assume it was from some dread scourge such as smallpox or cholera.

A large white marble monument in the Central Cemetery for Francis L. Pratt, 1818-1897 and his wife, Sarah, 1823-1875, and their six children causes a moment of sad reflection.

would account for the inherited tendency for multiple births.

Thomas Bourn, the son, appears to have been married twice, since there's a nearby stone "In memory of Mrs. Jane Bourn, consort of Mr. Thomas Bourn, died June 9th, 1787, aged 19 years." Her epitaph reads "Some hearty friends may drop a tear, On these dry bones & say, These limbs were active once like mine, but mine must be as they." Where is used instead of were, which could be due to a misspelling on the part of the engraver.

A white slab marble stone near the center entrance to the Central Cemetery chronicles the settling in America of the

Made Them 1653-1800" mentions it and shows a picture of the stone.

Decorated with a winged skull, hourglass, pick and spade and a few words of Latin the stones says, "Here lies ye body of Phinehas Pratt aged about 90 yrs. Deed April 19, 1680 & was one of ye first English inhabitants of ye Massachusetts Colony."

Another interesting stone is one for Urian Oakes which has a finely carved skull and crossed bones with a winged soul underneath. It says, "Here lies buried the body of Mr. Urian Oakes, who died Febry 1st, 1776, aged 47 years & 2 months. Who mourn his loss suppress ye pious tears, ye wish him out of heaven to wish him here."

The skull and cross bones on the Oakes stone is representative of the kind of work done by Captain John Homer of Boston, a known associate of colonists working for liberty from England. From 1758 to 1797 Capt. Homer was paid for about forty stones, according to Forbes in her book.

A visit to the Central Cemetery wouldn't be complete without admiring the largest monument in it. A large marble cross, towering 20 to 30 feet in the air, was erected in 1914 to commemorate the final resting place of about 45 Irish emigrants from a total company of 99 who lost their lives on Crampus Ledge off Cohasset, Oct. 7, 1848 in the wreck of the Brig St. John from Galway Ireland.

Many of the epitaphs and carvings are difficult to read and have begun to deteriorate with age, but can be discerned if a gravestone rubbing is taken.

Rubbing is simply the process of producing on a sheet of paper a copy of the engraving on a stone by rubbing a piece of colored wax over the paper, which is held against the stone. There are several other methods of rubbing but this is the simplest and easiest.

To begin a collection of engravings or epitaphs one needs only basic tools. To begin a child's crayon may be used and white paper, but once enamored of the process special paper, such as rice paper, and wax crayons can be bought at art supply stores.

Finding an art supply store that stocks appropriate paper is not easy and the devotee may find it necessary to travel to Boston to find the necessary supplies. A carpenter's crayon can be found at most hardware stores and works quite well for rubbing.

A stiff, but not wire brush, should be used to clean the stone of loose moss or lichen before the paper is taped with masking tape to cover the design.

Many communities prohibit rubbing but Cohasset does not. It would be best, however, if interested persons checked with the police department before setting out to do some rubbing, instead of meeting up with police after some concerned citizen reported vandals in the graveyard.

## Obituaries

### Adelaide Henwood

A memorial service was held Friday at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham for Mrs. Adelaide (Richards) Henwood, 75, of 5 Diab Lane who died May 1 at the Dearing Nursing Home in Hingham after a brief illness.

Burial was in Westfield, N.J.

Mrs. Henwood was born in New York City and lived in New Jersey and Beverly farms until moving to Cohasset two years ago.

Wife of the late Donald Henwood, Mrs. Henwood leaves two daughters, Mrs. Joan Haley of Hingham and Mrs. Barbara Fleming of Montreal, Que.; a brother, George Richards of Cranford, Ill.; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 142 Main St., Brockton 02401.

### Benjamin LeClair

A funeral mass was celebrated May 2 in St. Anthony's Church for Benjamin N. LeClair, 83, of 9 Doane St., who died April 30 at South Shore Hospital after a long illness.

Burial was private.

Mr. LeClair was born in East Andover, N.H., and lived in Quincy and Hingham before moving to Cohasset 53 years ago. He was a self-employed builder and contractor more than 50 years until retirement.

Mr. LeClair leaves his wife, Bertha; seven sons, Donald Sr. of Loudonville, N.Y., Kenneth of Hanover, N.H., Walter of Cohasset, Leighton of Hackettstown, N.J., Hadley of Kingston and Anselm of Bridgewater; a daughter, Mrs. Theresa Lyle of Norfolk, Va.; a brother, Nelson of Concord, N.H.; a sister, Mrs. Florence Daige of Attleboro; 21 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Listed are the children, none of whom lived to adulthood, and three sons named Ezekiel. The first Ezekiel died July 7, 1851, aged one year; the second Sept. 4, 1852, ages six months; and the last some years later in 1865 at one year.

Nearby is another white marble sphere for Ezekiel Pratt, M.D. which says he was "born on the memorable dark day, May 20, 1880 and died Oct. 9, 1860 aged 80 years and five months." Exactly why his birth was on a memorable dark day is not known.

There is an interesting double stone in the center of the cemetery which merely has engraved "Two infants, 1790" but nearby is a double stone with the usual winged skull which attests to the death of twin boys born to Thomas and Betty Bourn. The undecorated stone is probably the footstone.

Born on September 3, 1970, one died the sixth and the other the ninth of the same month.

Multiple births seemed to run in the Bourn family for next to the twins' stone is one for triplets of another Thomas Bourn. It says, "Here lyes the body of three children born at abirth, sons of Mr. Thomas Bourn and Mrs. Susanna Bourn, who died Oct. 30, 1764."

Thomas Bourn, father of the triplets is buried nearby. He died Oct. 10, 1796 in his 67th year. His stone has an interesting epitaph, "This is the lot by heaven defind, to be the fate of all mankind, Death is a debth to nature due, which i body paid and so must you."

Although it does not say, the two Bourn men are probably father and son, which

Pratt family. The stone was erected by the descendants of the original Pratt settlers sometime in the 1800s since white marble was rarely used before then.

It says, "Phinehas Pratt, came over from England with the Weston Colony in 1623, and first settled in Weymouth. The Indians threatening to destroy the colonies, he travelled in the then wilderness, with the Indians following to destroy him, after three days, he arrived at Plymouth and gave information to the Governor, and by the blessing of God the colony was saved."

He died at Charlestown April 19, 1680, aged 90 years and has a tombstone yet to be seen. One of his sons Aaron, settled in this place and died in 1735 aged 81 years. Aaron, 2nd, his son died aged 77 years. Thomas son of Aaron 2nd, died 1818, aged 85 years. Sarah, his wife died 1806, aged 62 years."

While the Pratt family in Cohasset may not have found the Phinehas Pratt stone, Harriette Forbes, in her book, "Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who

## Art Exhibit At Library

A colorful new art display is now being exhibited in the children's room of the Paul Pratt Memorial Library.

The art work was done by Mrs. Flynn's third grade class at the Osgood School, under the instruction of Mrs. Wyman. The display was selected by Mrs. Wyman and arranged by Marilyn Hobson, a board member of the Friends of the Cohasset Library.

## Excitement At Mall

Over 200 decorated Easter Eggs were received in Hanover Mall's third annual Egg-citing coloring contest.

Grant prize winner was Amber Clapp of Cohasset whose prize winning entry was a likeness of baseball star Dennis Eckersly. She received a \$50 Hanover Mall gift certificate for her efforts.

First prize winners received \$25 gift certificates, while runners up received \$10 certificates. The contest was judged by the employees of Balsam's Card and Gift Shop.